



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

opinion, is too much inclined to consider these game-rhymes as coming from a purely English source, rather than as the forms of a modern European system. But this comment applies only to certain of the hypotheses respecting origin, and has nothing to do with the main scope and purpose of the work, which deserves unqualified praise.

For one exceedingly ingenious and probable conjecture we must find room. Every child knows the rhyme: "Here we come, gathering nuts in May." Why "nuts in May"? "Knots of May" has been a familiar expression for those garlands or "baskets" ("May-baskets") which May parties go out to seek; it would therefore seem likely that this would be the proper spelling. The rhyme, therefore, represents the obtaining of a partner for the May ceremonies. Whether the analogy is to be carried farther, and it is to be considered that the action of the game describes the possible ancient practice of forcibly carrying off such a partner, is more doubtful.

The singing games are accompanied by the music, which appears to be faithfully and excellently indicated.

*W. W. N.*

CHILDREN'S SINGING GAMES. With the tunes to which they are sung. Collected and edited by ALICE B. GOMME. Pictured in black and white by WINIFRED SMITH. David Nutt, in the Strand, London. Macmillan and Co., New York. No date. Pp. 70.

This little work contains eight singing games, taken from the collection just noticed. The book, which is intended for the pleasure of children, and for use in the family and the kindergarten, is illustrated after a fashion now common in holiday publications relating to child-life. The antiquity of the games, together with their intrinsic attraction, is likely to render these of permanent interest to the English-speaking world. As we write, our attention is drawn to a series of articles contained in the "New York Tribune," from the pen of a well-known musical critic, Mr. H. E. Krehbiel. Mr. Krehbiel favors the hypothesis of the mythologic significance of certain of the songs, being inclined, for example, in the words, "Ring round the rosy," belonging to a familiar game-rhyme, to find one of the titles of the goddess Holda or Holle. At all events, whatever differences of opinion may continue to exist respecting the original meaning of this or that rhyme, there is every reason to suppose that in some of these games we have survivals of ancient religious ritual, as well as of early social usage.

BIBLIOGRAFIA DELLE TRADIZIONI POPOLARI D' ITALIA. Compilata da GIUSEPPE PITRÈ. Con tre indici speciali. Torino-Palermo. Carlo Clausen. MDCCCXCIV. Pp. xx, 603.

In this most valuable and laborious bibliography the illustrious compiler has added to the debt which the study of folk-lore owes to him, far more than to any other Italian scholar, and has given to the very imperfect bibliography of folk-lore an admirable beginning and example. The work includes not only books (of which about a thousand are catalogued), but also articles contained in periodicals and newspapers, almanacs, calendars,

the nuptial publications frequent in Italy, anthologies, etc. The number of titles runs to 6,680, of which a hundred include the works of Pitre himself. In addition to the full title, place of publication, size, number of pages, etc., are given the contents of the book, or remarks summing up the character of the article. The greater part of the publications have passed under the eye of the compiler; where that is not the case, the fact is denoted by a star; this precaution is rendered necessary by the extremely loose manner in which reference to printed works has commonly been made. The arrangement is alphabetical, according to separate chapters; these are (1) tales, narratives, legends, jests; (2) songs and melodies; (3) games and songs of children; (4) riddles, formulas, words, slang; (5) proverbs; (6) habits, customs, beliefs, superstitions. The first five heads, as the author remarks, belong to folk-literature, the last to folk-ethnography.

The author's conception of folk-lore may be cited: "Folk-lore (knowledge, learning of the people), a name given by the English to our studies, and now universally adopted in Europe and in America, includes the physical and moral life of man in all its manifestations, beginning with garments, food, domestic and religious usages, and ending with beliefs, the oral traditions that reveal its thoughts, affections, and multiform spirit in the tale, song, sentence, or expression; setting out from the primitive expedients of getting a livelihood (chase, fishing, agriculture), and descending to all pursuits, all occupations with which life is gained on land and sea, in city and country, in mountains and mines. Ethnography and sociology, mythology and ethics, poetry and literature, participate in it to an extent greater or less; and many are the histories in which some explanation is to be made concerning the customs of the peoples whose vicissitudes are narrated."

A very beautiful dedication to the departed mother of the compiler introduces the book, and reveals the noble and amiable character of the laborer whom Italy has so much reason to honor. The world, too, owes a debt of gratitude to one who has shown that literary and scientific labors of this sort may be not the amusement of leisure, or the pleasure of the well-to-do, but the labor of love of the pains-taking and struggling professional man, animated solely by a desire to serve his country and perform his duty.

W. W. N.

ANNUAIRE DES TRADITIONS POPULAIRES. Published by the SOCIÉTÉ DES TRADITIONS POPULAIRES.) Paris. E. Lechevalier. 1894. Pp. iii, 165.

This year-book is the only publication in which may be sought information respecting publications and persons concerning themselves with folk-lore studies. In the first place are given accounts of the societies of folk-lore, which exist in Belgium, Spain, Italy, Greece, Germany, England, and America, not to mention ethnographical or literary associations, which include among their objects folk-lore collection, as in Greece, Russia, and Finland. Next is given a long and complete list of journals, extending in number to more than eighty, enumerating those which are devoted, either in whole or in part, to researches of this kind. The museums are given which contain collections of objects relating to folk-lore, as, for example, costumes, amulets, etc. A directory of "traditionnistes," or students of folk-